

Police search for suspects in death of county woman

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By Bernie Woodall
News Tribune Writer

Investigators still have no suspects and haven't determined a motive for the stabbing death of St. Lucie County resident Pamela Kay Cantaline.

Mrs. Cantaline, 42, of 3244 Lennard St., just south of the Fort Pierce city limits, was found by her 17-year-old son, Robert Trimble, about 8:30 Monday morning. Trimble had gone into his mother's room to see why she wasn't ready for work, said Chief Deputy Bob Crowder of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Cantaline was found lying on the floor next to her bed partially clothed. A butcher knife lawmen believe was the murder weapon was laying nearby. The knife came from within the house on Lennard Street, Crowder said.

"We're trying to get a motive," Crowder said after holding a conference with Lt. Robert Provost, the sheriff's chief of detectives.

Crowder said detectives don't know whether Mrs. Cantaline was being sexually assaulted at the time of the murder.

"She may have been surprised in the process of undressing," Crowder said. "We don't know at this time if she was being assaulted."

An autopsy performed Tuesday by the chief medical examiner, Dr. Leonard Walker, showed that Mrs. Cantaline was stabbed several times. The fatal wound was to her chest, piercing her heart, Crowder said.

Mrs. Cantaline, a native of Anderson, Ind., came to St. Lucie County 18 years ago after divorcing her first husband, Michael McMahon, a career U.S. Air Force serviceman who now lives in Brevard County. Her most recent husband, William Cantaline, died three years ago from cancer. He was a firefighter for the St. Lucie County-Fort Pierce Fire District.

Crowder said police haven't pinpointed the time of death, but estimate the stabbing to have occurred before midnight Sunday. Crowder said Trimble told lawmen he came home Sunday night about 9:30 and the door to his mother's bedroom was closed. It was still closed at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Autopsy yields no surprises, no added clues

By Bernie Woodall
News Tribune Writer

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No additional clues and no surprises came from a medical examiner's autopsy report on the death of Pamela Cantaline issued Wednesday to St. Lucie County sheriff's detectives, said Lt. Bob Provost, head of the department's detective division.

The 42-year-old woman was found dead in the bedroom of her Lennard Street home just south of Fort Pierce. She was found by her 17-year-old son, Robert Trimble, about 8:30 a.m. Feb. 25.

"We were hoping that the autopsy would give us some details we didn't already have or help us determine a motive, but that didn't happen," Provost said.

The autopsy report showed there were no drugs in Mrs. Cantaline's body at the time of her death nor did it show that she was sexually assaulted, Provost said. The autopsy was performed by Medical Examiner Dr. Leonard Walker.

"There really wasn't anything out of the ordinary that would give us any new direction in our investigation," Provost said.

He said detectives are continuing to interview members of Mrs. Cantaline's family and persons in the neighborhood but haven't been able to determine a motive for the murder.

"What we are trying to do is establish a good, solid motive. Once we've done that we can go a long way in figuring out who might have done it. The autopsy didn't rule out or add any suspects," Provost said.

The cause of death, a stab wound to the heart by a butcher knife probably attained from within the house, was already known to investigators, he said.

Robbery has been ruled out as a motive, Provost said, because jewelry and other valuables in Mrs. Cantaline's bedroom were left intact.

The sheriff's department has questioned several suspects in the case but "we haven't pinpointed any one suspect yet," he said.

An investigation into the incident is continuing.